

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A process for purification of CMP-N-acetylneuraminic acid (CMP-NeuAc) without employment of any chromatography treatment, comprising the following steps (1) to (4):

step (1): a step of adding a ~~divalent cationic species~~ calcium ion or a magnesium ion to a CMP-NeuAc-containing solution, thereby causing phosphoric acid, pyrophosphoric acid, and a nucleotide which coexist with CMP-NeuAc to precipitate;

step (2): a step of adding a phosphatase to the CMP-NeuAc-containing solution, thereby converting the nucleotide which coexists with CMP-NeuAc into a nucleoside;

step (3): a step of adding an ~~organic solvent~~ alcohol having a carbon number of 5 or less, thereby precipitating CMP-NeuAc in the form of salt; and

step (4): a step of collecting the thus-precipitated CMP-NeuAc,

wherein ~~these steps~~ steps (1) and (2) are performed in a sequence selected from:

~~step (1), step (2), step (3), and then step (4);~~ step (2), or

~~step (2), step (1), step (3), and then step (4); or~~

step (1) and step (2) performed simultaneously; and

wherein the thus-precipitated CMP-NeuAc has a purity of 95% or more.

2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein these steps are performed in the following sequence: step (1), step (2), step (3), and then step (4).

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein step (1) and step (2) are performed simultaneously and then steps (3) and (4) are performed sequentially.

5. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein step (3) and step (4) are performed a plurality of times.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the phosphatase is *Escherichia coli* alkaline phosphatase.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) A purification process according to claim 1, wherein the CMP-NeuAc collected in step (4) is subjected to cation exchange reaction for substitution of the cationic moiety of the CMP-NeuAc.

10. (Previously presented) A purification process according to claim 9, wherein the cation exchange reaction employs an ion-exchange resin.